

EDUCATION

Updates

4 January 2020

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Indonesia, Dec 30, 2019: Parents of special-needs kids face hard reality of inclusive education dream [Jakarta Post]. The challenges grow if schools fail to provide an inclusive education and a safe environment where children's needs are catered for and where they are protected from bullying. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Dec 29, 2019: Moulding future English language experts [Star]. The Education Ministry's English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) has always taken the initiative to support all English language teachers on their journey towards becoming masters of the subject. [LINK](#)

Philippines, Dec 30, 2019: More students to benefit from increased access to higher education [Manila Bulletin]. In line with the government's efforts to provide assistance to deserving Filipino students, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) signed agreements with its partners to strengthen the implementation of the free higher education law. [LINK](#)

Thailand, Dec 30, 2019: Rocky road to academic excellence [Bangkok Post]. It seems 2019 was not the best year for the education system as Thai students still performed below the international average. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Dec 30, 2019: Driving Singapore's excellence in AI [NUS]. Singapore has been highlighted as a centre of excellence in artificial intelligence with the NUS-based AI Singapore playing a key role in its strong standing in a Stanford University report. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Dec 30, 2019: Parents need not fear getting ready for the first day of school [CNA]. Perhaps instead of stressing about the first day of school, parents should celebrate it. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 2, 2020: Students hold KL protest in support of Jawi [NST] About 300 Muslim students gathered to protest against Chinese educationist group Dong Zong for opposing a Malaysian government plan to introduce Jawi writing in Chinese and Tamil schools. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 2, 2020: New S\$100m Eunoia JC campus is Singapore's first 'high-rise' junior college [CNA] The learning spaces are designed with the intention of encouraging collaboration, encouraging active student life, and encouraging the students to really make use of space to support their learning. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 3, 2020: New year, new class formats at some schools [NST] 28 schools pilot full subject-based banding, start mixed-stream form classes, or

do both. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 3, 2020: Maszlee steps down as Malaysia's education minister [NST] His stumbles as education chief often made headlines and became memes as the public ridiculed the inexperienced minister over moves. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 4, 2020: Singapore IB students make up half of world's perfect scorers [NST] The Republic accounts for 35 of 69 such scorers globally; local cohort achieves 97% pass rate. [LINK](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

Japan, Dec 29, 2019: Japan govt. begins survey on radiation education [NHK] Japan's education ministry has launched a survey on radiation studies at schools. Concerns are rising that efforts to teach the subject are losing momentum. [LINK](#)

China, Dec 30, 2019: Education Ministry requires strengthened administrative law enforcement [Xinhua Net]. China's Education Ministry has unveiled a guideline to strengthen administrative law enforcement to deal with illegal enrolment, illegal charges and cheating in national exams. [LINK](#)

Fiji, Dec 30, 2019: Budget for school, parents urged [Fiji Times]. Education Minister Rosy Akbar is urging parents to budget for the new school year while financially planning for the festive season. [LINK](#)

India, Dec 30, 2019: Indian higher education is in pigeonholes [Times of India]. The higher education system needs to move away from traditional STEM format to cater to new emerging fields. [LINK](#)

India, Dec 30, 2019: Is India's education spending efficient? [Live Minit]. India is more efficient in using public funds for education compared to other developing countries, finds new study. [LINK](#)

New Zealand, Dec 30, 2019: Golden Bay students taught emotional skills to better cope with anxiety [Stuff]. Alfie Langford, 10, used to get mad at his brothers when they annoyed him, but thanks to a new programme addressing rising anxiety levels in students, he now has new skills to call on. [LINK](#)

South Korea, Dec 31, 2019: Education sector split over voting age [Korea Times]. Mixed responses are rising over the National Assembly's passage of an election reform bill that lowers the voting age to 18 from current 19. Those aged 18 are usually high school seniors in Korea. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

Germany, Dec 30, 2019: Teachers' Association: Criticism of qualification of career changes [Teller Report]. The association has sharply criticized inadequate qualification of career changes in schools. [LINK](#)

Greece, Dec 30, 2019 Initiatives expected in 2020 for Greece's public education sector [Greek News Agency]. Greece's education ministry is expected to proceed with reforms and changes at all education levels in 2020, according to reports. [LINK](#)

Latvia, Dec 30, 2019: Next year onward schools will start adopting changes to teaching approach [Baltic News]. Starting September 2020, gradual changes will be added to teaching materials and approach in 1st, 4th and 10th grades in all of Latvia's schools. [LINK](#)

Norway, Dec 30, 2019: Lack of industrial apprentices [Norway Today]. In the last five years, the number of students choosing industrial technology has dropped as much as 38 per cent, according to the Directorate for Education, creating apprenticeship shortages across the country. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Dec 31, 2019: Top schools defend rejecting bursary for white boys [BBC]. Two top English private schools say they do not want to put ethnic restrictions on who can benefit from financial help. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Dec 30, 2019: Student loans: Online accounts to undergo overhaul in 2020 [BBC]. The government is promising an overhaul of how graduates are able to access their student loan accounts online. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Dec 30, 2019: Schools in Wales: New tax "should fund school curriculum changes" [BBC]. A tax should be introduced to ensure Welsh schools are properly funded as they introduce a new curriculum, a leading economist has said. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Dec 30, 2019: More than £100,000 in payouts for three teachers attacked by pupils [BBC]. Three teachers assaulted by pupils were awarded more than £100k compensation between them, according to Scotland's largest teachers union. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Jan 3, 2020: Drive to widen applicants at universities leads to a sharp increase in dropouts [Telegraph] Two thirds of universities and colleges have seen an increase in the proportion of students dropping out in the last five years. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Egypt, Dec 30, 2019: 2019: The year of education [Ahram Online]. The Ministry has been busy implementing reforms including introduction of public

schools which will teach international curricula. [LINK](#)

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dec 30, 2019: Cultural scholarships on offer to Saudi students in an education first [Arab News]. The country's first cultural scholarship program which will provide specialized learning opportunities for male and female students at prominent international institutions. [LINK](#)

Oman, Dec 30, 2019: Girls outnumbered boys two-fold in school enrollment in Oman [Pulse of Oman]. More female students enrolled in schools and graduated from higher education institutions than male students in the last two years. [LINK](#)

United Arab Emirates, Dec 29, 2019: Call for action after report reveals high bullying rates in schools [National]. Schools have been urged to do more to protect children after an international survey found nearly a third are regularly bullied. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Argentina, Dec 30, 2019: Reading plan launched [En24]. Minister of Education, Nicolas Trotta, announced initiative to improve reading comprehension of children and adolescents and, at the same time, reactivate the Argentine publishing industry. [LINK](#)

United States of America, Dec 30, 2019 How student loans are ruining American higher education [College Fix]. Student loans are a flashpoint in American higher education culture, particularly as more young people borrow higher amounts of money, going deeper into debt for degrees that are worth less and less each year. [LINK](#)

EDUCATION ARTICLES

Dec 31, 2019: Grade inflation: The biggest threat to academic standards and university credibility [Study International]. The skyrocketing number of students walking away with a first class degree is sparking concerns over grade inflation. [LINK](#)

Dec 29, 2019: So you want to work at google? [Straits Times]. In the first of a four-part series on higher education, skills and work, Google's Kyle Ewing talks about the qualities the tech giant looks for in applicants. [LINK](#)

Jan 1, 2020: Japan may have the answer to Asia's massive school absenteeism problem [Study International] The number of students attending free or alternative schools instead of regular schools has spiked – from 7,424 in 1992 to 20,346 in 2017. [LINK](#)